

Dear FCC:

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need to participate in a true democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, we want to see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter to our communities and where we can select the values that are important.

Sinclair's actions in shoving it's political choice onto local stations show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Their actions show why the license renewal process needs to involve applying the criteria of benefit to the public rather than rubber-stamping the renewal of a company who has abused it's privilege of using the publicly owned airwaves.

Please exercise the FCC authority in this case to deter Sinclair Broadcasting from imposing it's political view, which in anti-Kerry case involves dubious journalism, on its stations without regard to its local stations' interpretation of whether the program is in alignment with the interest of the community it services. Please also send a clear message to Sinclair that it has overstepped the bounds and license renewal will come under scrutiny in light of it's disregard of it's responsibility to the public and the functioning of democracy. Thanks you,
Carol L. O'Connell, Esq.

New Hope, PA